

Cultivation of Soya Bean and Mulberry.

443. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to popularise the cultivation of (1) soya bean and (2) mulberry in the State and if so, what are they?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, by demonstrating the cultivation in the departmental Experimental Farms, by distributing seeds and cuttings free among agriculturists and also by advising them on the advantages of this cultivation.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the climatic conditions of north Travancore are suitable for mulberry cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Was there not a mulberry plantation at Nedumangad?

PRESIDENT: Yes. Some years ago.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Was it abolished with the advice of the Agricultural Department?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I do not know; it is a matter of ancient history.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Formerly, we had the competition of Japan which practically made cultivation of mulberry and the production of silk uneconomic, because they dumped silk upon India. But, just now, as evidenced by Kashmere and Mysore, mulberry cultivation and silk are very likely to be profitable in view of the defeat of Italy and the change in the situation with Japan who were our only international competitors.

Agricultural Farm.

444. *MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (Karunagapalli cum Kartikapalli): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the Government agricultural farm (cocoanut garden) at Oachira;

(b) the number of trees;

(c) the yield per year; and

(d) the money spent for the maintenance?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) 4 acres 19 cents;

(b) 223.

(c) 8,232 nuts during 1119,

(d) Rs. 440 Chs. 22 C. 0 during 1119.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the trees in the farm are better than those in the locality.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I take it that the income from an acre of cocoanut garden is only 100 rupees per year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Out of 290 and odd trees about 223 trees are bearing and compared to the yield in the areas surrounding this farm, the yield can certainly be said to be good.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: What is the total acreage of that farm?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is given in the answer: 4 acres and 19 cents.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know what the net income in the year 1119 was?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Rs. 645, Chs. 6, and cash 15.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know with respect to answer (d), whether that amount includes the pay of the person in charge of the farm?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It includes every item of expenditure—the pay of the person, contingent charges, and the manuring charges. The total expenditure comes to Rs. 440 and odd and the profit realised by the sale is Rs. 640 and odd.

Inspectors in the Agricultural Department.

445. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) how many Inspectors are there at present in the Agricultural Department;

(b) what are the specific items of work that they do at present;

(c) do they hold meetings of agriculturists to lecture to them about modern methods of agriculture;

(d) if so, how many such meetings have been held last year;

(e) whether experimental farms are run by them; and

(f) if so, how many such farms are there in Trivandrum and Neyyattinkara taluks?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) Thirteen.

(b) (i) Carrying on propaganda for the improvement of agriculture.

(ii) Conducting demonstrations in selected centres for the benefit of the agriculturists.

(iii) Effecting manure sales for helping the Grow More Food Campaign and

(iv) Directing the work of the Agricultural Demonstrators in their respective Ranges.

(c) Yes.

(d) 136.

(e) No.

(f) In view of the answer to part (e), this question does not arise.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what kind of propaganda is being carried on by the Agricultural Inspectors?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The answer is given there. Conducting demonstrations in selected centres; effecting manure sales for helping the "grow more food campaign" and directing the work of the Agricultural Demonstrators in their respective ranges etc.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know with regard to the first part of the answer, what is the actual propaganda that is being done?